

Testimony of David Manz D.M.D., Ph.D.
Resident in Advanced Education in General Dentistry
University of Connecticut Health

Dear Appropriations Committee,

My name is David Manz and I am writing today in support of the University of Connecticut and UConn Health. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute my thoughts and for your consideration.

I was born in Connecticut and have lived here my whole life. In that time, I have been fortunate to attend the University of Connecticut for my entire professional training. In 2012, I graduated from the University of Connecticut in Storrs with a B.S. in Biological Sciences and a minor in business. In 2021, I graduated from UConn Health with a D.M.D and Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences. Today, I am a resident at UConn Health in the Advanced Education in General Dentistry program.

As a student of the University of Connecticut, I have had a direct connection to some of the largest public funding initiatives in the school's history. UConn 2000 dramatically changed the Storrs campus prior to my arrival and these changes contributed to my decision to attend the University. 21st Century UConn, a continuation of the investment, further improved the campus during my tenure and after. Similarly, UConn Health changed dramatically during my tenure with the Bioscience Connecticut initiative and Next Generation Connecticut.

Due to these experiences, I can personally attest to the profound effect that these investments had on student education. These initiatives improved facilities, enabled faculty recruitment, and provided learning opportunities that may not have otherwise been possible. Indeed, the quality of the education and the opportunities available are among the key reasons I have continued my training here. I have never felt that I had to pursue alternative opportunities to receive the best possible education. Having spent nearly half my life at the University of Connecticut, I encourage you to continue to support the University of Connecticut and UConn Health.

Support for the University and UConn Health will ensure that future students continue to see the University of Connecticut, as I do, as a bastion of education and opportunity. I feel that this is exceptionally important as, according to data from 2020-2021, 72% of the University's graduates are living and working in Connecticut. It is evident that the University of Connecticut plays a vital role in cultivating the next generation of Connecticut's leaders, educators, and clinicians. Therefore, I believe an investment in the University is an investment in the state's future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

David